

**AMERICAN HERITAGE RIVER COMMISSION
MINUTES OF DECEMBER 18, 2014
WAREHOUSE POINT LIBRARY**

IN ATTENDANCE:

Alan Baker	Albert Grant	Lois Noble
Barbara Sherman	Dick Sherman	Dick Sullivan
Deb Talamini	Tom Talamini	Scott Tripp

ABSENT:

Joanne Drapeau	Al Floyd	Ken Francis
Sue Gaffney	Ray Jones	Jim Halloran

GUESTS:

John Burnham	Deb Nordell
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1. **CALL TO ORDER:** 7:05 PM
2. **MINUTES** of November 20, 2014: Motioned and Approved, with 4 abstentions.
3. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Treasurer Deb Talamini said no new sales; she plans to get printout from new system as of the beginning of the year..
4. **ADDED AGENDA ITEMS:** None
5. **ON-GOING / OLD BUSINESS:**
 - a. River Review – River is high after much rain.
 - b. Water testing – Continues by Deb Nordell who asked if she could do some pruning near where she takes the samples.
 - c. Scantic River State Park Trail – Member Alan Baker told of one of the mud walks being washed away and in need of replacement. Discussion followed as to whether to leave it where it lodged since that is where the water takes it and just lengthening it for better use and stability.
 - d. December Work Party – The banner was placed at the town parking lot.
 - e. Patch Blog / Facebook / Publicity – Member Deb Talamini was thanked for all her efforts in publicizing the annual hike. She reported that it was listed in DEEP's 'first day hike' list.
6. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - a. December work party – There is still need for the 2 big bridges to be anchored. Then in preparation of hike on New Year's Day the members will check the entire trail sometime during Christmas week.
 - b. SRWA – is seeking for new members and officers. Member Albie Grant described its past efforts in 4 parks on the Scantic River. The group has done a lot of work on its short 1 – 2 mile trails and just maintenance now is needed. It has the tools and is looking for volunteers to help particularly with cleaning of trash that is left behind by users of the area.
 - c. Hike – There will be a port-a-pot for the convenience of the hikers. John Burnham will provide a burn barrel for warmth. The Democratic Party will provide hot chocolate, cider and hot dogs. Members Scott Tripp and wife Sharon will collect the food for pets and people.
 - d. Projects for New Year – Chair shared his list for 2015: Sabonis property transfer which will be completed after Ms.

Sabonis returns from Florida in the spring. A town meeting will be needed to finalize it. Ms. Sabonis wishes the area to be titled "Sabonis Landing". Chair would like to see the parcel used for the duck race and our cardboard boat race since it is level and would provide excellent viewing for all and have ample parking.

2. Wicketts Bridge Road to have material added to tighten it up and make it usable.

3. Hensel property have trails put in; there are trees down which need to be cut up and removed so a walk can be made, Barriers need to be installed to prevent cars from going onto trail area.

4. Have a definite date for work parties so members and other volunteers can plan ahead. After discussion it was decided to make it the weekend after our meetings for work parties.

- 7. PUBLIC INPUT** – Guest John Burnham brought a map which showed the open space associated with a development at the old Nike site. The land had been offered to the Town but it was not fully enthusiastic about taking it over. The Scout Hall committee is willing and wants to accept it. It would provide space for kids and other groups which is what the Scout Hall charter calls for. John hoped the AHRC would endorse the plan for Scout Hall to acquire that space. Member Lois Noble made such a motion which was seconded by Vice Chair Tom Talamini. There was discussion and then the motion was voted upon and it passed unanimously.

On another topic, information from the Police Chief about the Police Department's use of social media to connect with the Town residents and as a way of the PD to provide valuable public safety educational tools or share unfolding emergencies that may impact the community. There will be a link found on the Town's website in the police or public safety section that can be used.

ADJOURNMENT: 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Barbara Sherman – 12/19/2014